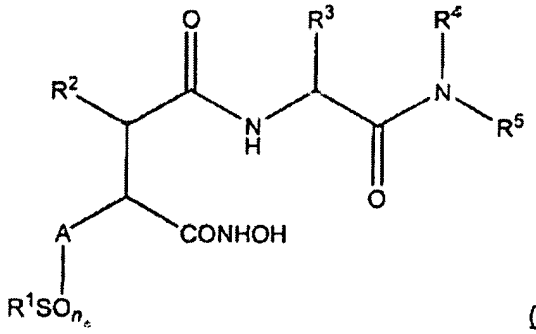
**IN THE CLAIMS**

Please enter the following amendment to the claims in light of the Proposed Examiner's Amendment of April 18, 2006 and the subsequent telephone interview between the Examiner and the undersigned, and to incorporate minor grammatical changes.

1. (currently amended) A method for treating retinal neovascularization in a mammal in need of such treatment, comprising topically administering to the eye a composition capable of delivering a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of formula I to the retina, said composition comprising a polymeric suspension agent which suspends a therapeutic neovascularization inhibitory agent, said therapeutic agent consisting essentially of a compound in the group of formula I:




(I)

where $R^1$ represents thienyl, $R^2$ represents a hydrogen atom or a $C_1$-$C_6$ alkyl, $C_1$-$C_6$ alkenyl, phenyl($C_1$-$C_6$) alkyl, cycloalkyl($C_1$-$C_6$)alkyl or cycloalkenyl($C_1$-$C_6$)alkyl group, $R^3$ represents an amino acid side chain or a $C_1$-$C_6$ alkyl, benzyl, ($C_1$-$C_6$ alkoxyl)benzyl or benzyloxy($C_1$-$C_6$ alkyl) or benzyloxy benzyl group, $R^4$ represents a hydrogen atom or a $C_1$-$C_6$ alkyl group, $R^5$ represents a hydrogen atom or a methyl group, n is an integer having the value 0, 1 or 2, and A represents a $C_1$-$C_6$ hydrocarbon chain, optionally substituted with one or more $C_1$-$C_6$ alkyl, phenyl or substituted phenyl groups, or a salt thereof; and a derivative of batimastat formed by methylation halogenation, acetylation, esterification and hydroxylation.

2. (previously presented) The method of 1, wherein said mammal is a human.

3. (previously presented) The method of 1, wherein said compound of formula I is batimastat.

4. (cancelled)

5. (previously presented) The method of 1, wherein said polymeric suspension agent comprises polycarbophil.

6. (previously presented) The method of 5, wherein said polycarbophil is present at a concentration of about 0.5 to about 1.5 percent by weight.

7.-70. (cancelled)

71. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said composition also contains one or more pharmaceutically acceptable carriers, excipients, gels, solutions, diluents preservatives, stabilizers, chelating agents, dyes, antibiotics, antimicrobials, or anti-fungal agents.

72. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said compound of formula I is present from about 0.01 to about 3 percent, by weight of said composition.

73. (previously presented) The method of 72, wherein said polycarbophil is present at a concentration of about 0.5 to about 1.5 percent by weight.

74. (previously presented) The method of claim 73, wherein said compositions also contains one or more pharmaceutically acceptable carriers, excipients, gels, solutions, diluents preservatives, stabilizers, chelating agents, dyes, antibiotics, antimicrobials, or anti-fungal agents.

75. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said compound is not batimastat.

76. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said mammal in need of such treatment suffers from diabetic retinopathy, age-related macular degeneration, neovascular glaucoma, retinopathy of prematurity, sickle-cell retinopathy, retinal vein occlusion, oxygen induced retinopathy, neovascularization due to ocular insults, neovascularization due to ocular trauma, or neovascularization due to surgical injury or surgical transplantation of eye tissue.

77. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said mammal in need of such treatment suffers from a disease or condition where a part of the retina is subject to:

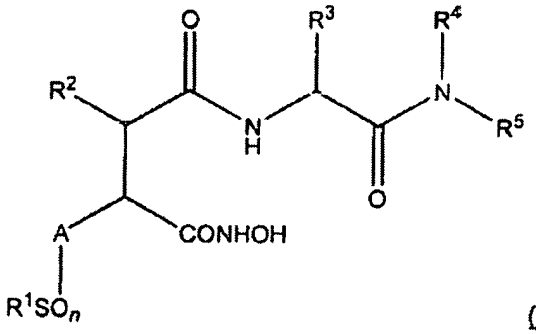
a relatively non-perfused state compared to surrounding tissue;

a disease or condition where any one or more of the proteins, proteinases, hormones, or cellular signals associated with angiogenesis are detected;

a disease or condition where new vessel growth can be detected or observed; or

a disease[[s]] associated with matrix metalloproteinase activity, endothelial invasion.

78. (currently amended) A method for inhibiting ~~preventing~~ retinal neovascularization in a mammal with a disease or condition associated with the manifestation of retinal neovascularization ~~in need of prophylaxis~~, comprising topically administering to the eye a composition capable of delivering a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of formula I to the retina, said composition comprising a polymeric suspension agent which suspends a therapeutic neovascularization inhibitory agent, said therapeutic agent consisting essentially of a compound in the group of formula I:




(I)

where $R^1$ represents thienyl, $R^2$ represents a hydrogen atom or a $C_1$-$C_6$ alkyl, $C_1$-$C_6$ alkenyl, phenyl($C_1$-$C_6$) alkyl, cycloalkyl($C_1$-$C_6$)alkyl or cycloalkenyl($C_1$-$C_6$)alkyl group, $R^3$ represents an amino acid side chain or a $C_1$-$C_6$ alkyl, benzyl, ($C_1$-$C_6$ alkoxyl)benzyl or benzyloxy($C_1$-$C_6$ alkyl) or benzyloxy benzyl group, $R^4$ represents a hydrogen atom or a $C_1$-$C_6$ alkyl group, $R^5$ represents a hydrogen atom or a methyl group, n is an integer having the value 0, 1 or 2, and A represents a $C_1$-$C_6$ hydrocarbon chain, optionally substituted with one or more $C_1$-$C_6$ alkyl, phenyl or substituted phenyl groups, or a salt thereof; and a derivative of batimastat formed by methylation halogenation, acetylation, esterification and hydroxylation.

79. (previously presented) The method of 78, wherein said mammal is a human.

80. (previously presented) The method of 78, wherein said compound of formula I is batimastat.

81. (previously presented) The method of 78, wherein said polymeric suspension agent comprises polycarbophil.

82. (previously presented) The method of 81, wherein said polycarbophil is present at a concentration of about 0.5 to about 1.5 percent by weight.

83. (previously presented) The method of claim 78, wherein said composition also contains one or more pharmaceutically acceptable carriers, excipients, gels, solutions, diluents preservatives, stabilizers, chelating agents, dyes, antibiotics, antimicrobials, or anti-fungal agents.

84. (previously presented) The method of claim 78, wherein said compound of formula I is present from about 0.01 to about 3 percent, by weight of said composition.

85. (previously presented) The method of 84, wherein said polycarbophil is present at a concentration of about 0.5 to about 1.5 percent by weight.

86. (previously presented) The method of claim 85, wherein said compositions also contains one or more pharmaceutically acceptable carriers, excipients, gels, solutions, diluents preservatives, stabilizers, chelating agents, dyes, antibiotics, antimicrobials, or anti-fungal agents.

87. (currently amended) The method of claim 78, wherein the mammal's condition or disease associated with the manifestation of retinal neovascularization is diabetic retinopathy, age-related macular degeneration, glaucoma, retinopathy of prematurity, sickle-cell retinopathy, retinal vein occlusion, oxygen induced retinopathy, ocular insults, ocular trauma, or surgical injury or surgical transplantation of eye tissue ~~said compound of formula I is not batimastat~~.

88. (cancelled)

89. (currently amended) The method of claim 78, wherein the mammal's condition or disease associated with the manifestation of retinal neovascularization is ~~said mammal in need of such treatment suffers from~~ a disease or condition where a part of the retina is subject to:

a relatively non-perfused state compared to surrounding tissue;

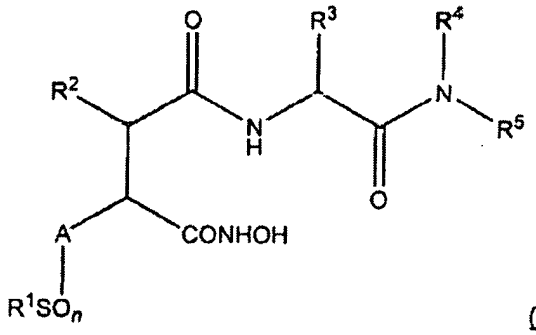
a disease or condition where any one or more of the proteins, proteinases, hormones, or cellular signals associated with angiogenesis are detected;

a disease or condition where new vessel growth can be detected or observed; or

a disease[[s]] associated with matrix metalloproteinase activity, endothelial invasion.

90.-101. (cancelled)

102. (currently amended) A method for treating or inhibiting ~~preventing~~ retinal neovascularization in a mammal in need of treatment or with a disease or condition associated with the manifestation of retinal neovascularization ~~prophylaxis~~, comprising topically administering to the eye a composition capable of delivering a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of formula I to the retina, said composition comprising ~~consisting of~~ a polymeric suspension agent ~~and~~ which suspends a neovascularization inhibitory agent, said agent consisting of a compound in the group of formula I:




(I)

where $R^1$ represents thienyl, $R^2$ represents a hydrogen atom or a $C_1$-$C_6$ alkyl, $C_1$-$C_6$ alkenyl, phenyl($C_1$-$C_6$) alkyl, cycloalkyl($C_1$-$C_6$)alkyl or cycloalkenyl($C_1$-$C_6$)alkyl group, $R^3$ represents an amino acid side chain or a $C_1$-$C_6$ alkyl, benzyl, ($C_1$-$C_6$ alkoxyl)benzyl or benzyloxy($C_1$-$C_6$ alkyl) or benzyloxy benzyl group, $R^4$ represents a hydrogen atom or a $C_1$-$C_6$ alkyl group, $R^5$ represents a hydrogen atom or a methyl group, n is an integer having the value 0, 1 or 2, and A represents a $C_1$-$C_6$ hydrocarbon chain, optionally substituted with one or more $C_1$-$C_6$ alkyl, phenyl or substituted phenyl groups, or a salt thereof; and a derivative of batimastat formed by methylation halogenation, acetylation, esterification and hydroxylation; ~~and~~ said composition further comprising one or more pharmaceutically acceptable carriers, excipients, gels, solutions, diluents

preservatives, stabilizers, chelating agents, dyes, antibiotics, antimicrobials, or anti-fungal agents.

103. (previously presented) The method of 102, wherein said mammal is a human.

104. (previously presented) The method of 102, wherein said compound of formula I is batimastat.

105. (previously presented) The method of 102, wherein said polymeric suspension agent comprises polycarbophil.

106. (previously presented) The method of 105, wherein said polycarbophil is present at a concentration of about 0.5 to about 1.5 percent by weight.

107. (cancelled)

108. (previously presented) The method of claim 102, wherein said compound of formula I is present from about 0.01 to about 3 percent, by weight of said composition.

109. (previously presented) The method of 108, wherein said polycarbophil is present at a concentration of about 0.5 to about 1.5 percent by weight.

110. (cancelled)

111. (previously presented) The method of claim 102, wherein said compound of formula I is not batimastat.

112. (currently amended) The method of claim 102, wherein said mammal is one which ~~in need of such treatment~~ suffers from diabetic retinopathy, age-related macular degeneration, ~~neovascular~~ glaucoma, retinopathy of prematurity, sickle-cell retinopathy, retinal vein occlusion, oxygen induced retinopathy, ~~neovascularization due to~~ ocular insults, ~~neovascularization due to~~ ocular trauma, ~~or neovascularization due~~ surgical injury, or surgical transplantation of eye tissue.

113. (currently amended) The method of claim 102, wherein said mammal is one with ~~in need of such treatment suffers from~~ a disease or condition where a part of the retina is subject to:

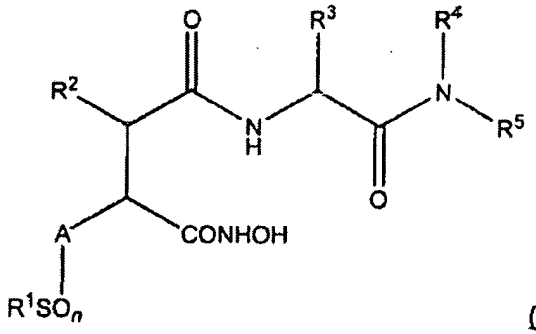
a relatively non-perfused state compared to surrounding tissue;

a disease or condition where any one or more of the proteins, proteinases, hormones, or cellular signals associated with angiogenesis are detected;

a disease or condition where new vessel growth can be detected or observed; or

a disease[[s]] associated with matrix metalloproteinase activity, endothelial invasion.

114. (currently amended) A method for treating retinal neovascularization in a mammal in need of treatment, comprising topically administering to the eye a composition capable of delivering a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of formula I to the retina, said composition consisting of a polymeric suspension agent and a compound in the group of formula I:




(I)

where $R^1$ represents thienyl, $R^2$ represents a hydrogen atom or a $C_1$-$C_6$ alkyl, $C_1$-$C_6$ alkenyl, phenyl($C_1$-$C_6$) alkyl, cycloalkyl($C_1$-$C_6$)alkyl or cycloalkenyl($C_1$-$C_6$)alkyl group, $R^3$ represents an amino acid side chain or a $C_1$-$C_6$ alkyl, benzyl, ($C_1$-$C_6$ alkoxyl)benzyl or benzyloxy($C_1$-$C_6$ alkyl) or benzyloxy benzyl group, $R^4$ represents a hydrogen atom or a $C_1$-$C_6$ alkyl group, $R^5$ represents a hydrogen atom or a methyl group, n is an integer having the value 0, 1 or 2, and A represents a $C_1$-$C_6$ hydrocarbon chain, optionally substituted with one or more $C_1$-$C_6$ alkyl, phenyl or substituted phenyl groups, or a salt thereof; and a derivative of batimastat formed by methylation halogenation, acetylation, esterification and hydroxylation; and one or more pharmaceutically acceptable carriers, excipients, gels, solutions, diluents preservatives, stabilizers, chelating agents, dyes, antibiotics, antimicrobials, or anti-fungal agents.

115. (previously presented) The method of 114, wherein said mammal is a human.

116. (previously presented) The method of 114, wherein said compound of formula I is batimastat.

117. (previously presented) The method of 114, wherein said polymeric suspension agent comprises polycarbophil.

118. (previously presented) The method of 117, wherein said polycarbophil is present at a concentration of about 0.5 to about 1.5 percent by weight.

119. (previously presented) The method of claim 114, wherein said compound of formula I is present from about 0.01 to about 3 percent, by weight of said composition.

120. (previously presented) The method of 119, wherein said polycarbophil is present at a concentration of about 0.5 to about 1.5 percent by weight.

121. (previously presented) The method of claim 114, wherein said compound of formula I is not batimastat.

122. (currently amended) The method of claim 114, wherein said mammal in need of such treatment suffers from diabetic retinopathy, age-related macular degeneration, neovascular glaucoma, retinopathy of prematurity, sickle-cell retinopathy, retinal vein occlusion, oxygen induced retinopathy, neovascularization due to ocular insults, neovascularization due to ocular trauma, or neovascularization due to surgical injury or surgical transplantation of eye tissue.

123. (currently amended) The method of claim 114, wherein said mammal in need of such treatment suffers from a disease or condition where a part of the retina is subject to:

a relatively non-perfused state compared to surrounding tissue;

a disease or condition where any one or more of the proteins, proteinases, hormones, or cellular signals associated with angiogenesis are detected;

a disease or condition where new vessel growth can be detected or observed; or

a disease[[s]] associated with matrix metalloproteinase activity, endothelial invasion.